

## Message Text

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44

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3940

AMCONSUL ZURICH NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2274

LIMDIS

ZURICH FOR SCHAUFEELE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET AMB. CRITICIZES US/UK INITIATIVES IN  
SOUTHERN AFRICA

1. SPEAKING AT CEREMONY WHERE HE PRESENTED 3,000 BOOKS TO  
THE GRZ CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AMB. SOLODVNIKOV ATTACKED US AND  
UK INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. ACCORDING TO SEPT. 3  
TIMES OF ZAMBIA ACCOUNT, HE CHARACTERIZED THEIR INVOLVEMENT  
AS "SINISTER". "I WANT TO SAY VERY HONESTLY, THAT WE DO  
NOT BELIEVE IN THE INTENTIONS OF THE IMPERIALIST POWERS--  
THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN--OF ELIMINATING THE SMITH CLIQUE  
AND BRING ABOUT MAJORITY RULE. EQUALLY, WE DO NOT BELIEVE  
THAT THESE POWERS INTEND TO GIVE GENUINE INDEPENDENCE TO  
THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA. IN FACT THEIR PLANS ARE AIMED AT  
PERPETUATING THE REGIMES OF SMITH AND VORSTER AND CRUSH THE  
UNITY OF AFRICA AND THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.... CONTRARY  
TO SOME WESTERN COUNTRIES WHICH TALK PLENTY ABOUT RESPECT  
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TO FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY, USSR RENDERED PRACTICAL SUPPORT

TO PEOPLE FIGHTING FOR THEIR INDEPENDENCE."

2. COMMENT: AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE RECENTLY ARRIVED SOLODNIKOV IS UNUSUAL AMONG SOVIET DIPLOMATS IN AFRICA. ATTRACTIVE PERSONALITY, FLUENT IN ENGLISH AND HIGHLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ON AFRICA HE BID FAIR TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN LUSAKA. HOWEVER, THE SPEECH QUOTED ABOVE WILL NOT PLEASE THE ZAMBIANS. ON THE CONTRARY IT IS LIKELY TO IRRITATE KAUNDA AND COULD SERIOUSLY LIMIT SOLODOVNIKOV'S EFFECTIVENESS IN ZAMBIA DURING HIS TENURE HERE. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE A TACTICAL MISTAKE TO TAKE EXCEPTION PUBLICLY WITH SOLODOVNIKOV'S COMMENTS AND CAST THE DISPUTE AS ONE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND U.K. ON ONE HAND AND THE SOVIETS ON THE OTHER. THIS APPROACH WOULD IRRITATE THE ZAMBIANS AND LET THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR OFF THE HOOK. RATHER WE WILL TRY TO CASTE REMARKS AS AN AFFRONT TO ZAMBIA AND TO TURN THE ARGUMENT TO ONE BETWEEN THE SOVIETS AND THE ZAMBIANS. WE ARE NOT PLANNING TO ISSUE ANY PRESS RELEASES. IF QUERIED, THE PAO WILL EXPRESS OUR SURPRISE THAT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR WOULD MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT IN ZAMBIA. IN OUR PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH ZAMBIANS WE WILL POINT OUT THAT THE SPEECH IS CONTRARY TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S STATEMENT THIS WEEK THAT HE WELCOMED U.S. INITIATIVES, AND SAY WE ARE PUZZLED THAT HE WOULD WANT TO CRITICIZE THE ZAMBIANS IN THIS WAY. I HAVE DISCUSSED WITH WITH MY BRITISH COLLEAGUE WHO WILL TAKE THE SAME LINE. WE WILL MAKE THESE POINTS ORALLY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND STATE HOUSE.

LOW

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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